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In the Claims

Please cancel claim 1.

Please amend claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12 as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The golf shaft according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the first portion is located between the middle portion and the butt portion.
3. (Currently Amended) The golf shaft according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the first portion extends entirely from the middle portion to the butt portion.
4. (Withdrawn) A golf shaft comprising: fiber reinforced plastic, a reinforced tip portion, a butt portion, and a middle portion located between the tip portion and the butt portion, the golf shaft including a tapered shape having an outer diameter that generally increases gradually from the tip portion to the butt portion, the golf shaft further including:
a portion excluding about 30% of the entire shaft length from the tip portion of the golf shaft and having a linear density that is generally uniform.
5. (Withdrawn) A golf shaft comprising:
a reinforced tip portion, a butt portion, and a middle portion located between the tip portion and the butt portion, the golf shaft being made of fiber reinforced plastic and including a

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tapered shape having an outer diameter that generally increases gradually from the tip portion to the butt portion, the golf shaft further including :

a linear density that is substantially uniform generally throughout the entire length of the shaft.

6. (Currently Amended) The golf shaft according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein when linear density data for the first portion is approximated by the method of least squares to the linear expression $f(x) = ax + b$, an inclination "a" of the first portion is expressed by $a \leq 0.000010$, and deviation of the linear density data relative to the approximated linear data is ± 0.002 , wherein the unit for the variable "x" is millimeter and the unit for the function $f(x)$ is kg/m.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The golf shaft according to claim 1, further comprising:~~

A golf shaft comprising:

a tip portion, a butt portion, and a middle portion located between the tip portion and the butt portion, the golf shaft being made of fiber reinforced plastic and including a tapered shape having an outer diameter that generally increases gradually from the tip portion to the butt portion, the golf shaft further including:

a first portion in which linear density is generally uniform;

a second portion defined by the part of the shaft excluding the first portion, the first portion occupying 30% or more of the entire shaft length, and the linear density of the first portion being greater than that of the second portion;

a prepreg sheet; and

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a braid layer having a braiding yarn arranged on the prepreg sheet, wherein an orientation angle of a braiding yarn in the braid layer is increased at a position in where a minimal value of a linear density distribution of the prepreg sheet is located.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The golf shaft according to claim 7, further comprising:~~

A golf shaft comprising:

a tip portion, a butt portion, and a middle portion located between the tip portion and the butt portion, the golf shaft being made of fiber reinforced plastic and including a tapered shape having an outer diameter that generally increases gradually from the tip portion to the butt portion, the golf shaft further including:

a first portion in which linear density is generally uniform;

a second portion defined by the part of the shaft excluding the first portion, the first portion occupying 30% or more of the entire shaft length, and the linear density of the first portion being greater than that of the second portion; and

braiding yarns forming a braid layer having an inner diameter that includes a taper rate, wherein when the taper rate of the inner diameter of the braid layer is 0.007 to 0.010 and the length of the first portion in which the linear density is generally uniform is represented by "x", wherein the unit for the variable "x" is millimeter, a braiding angle relative to the distance from the shaft tip in the first portion is varied in a linear manner, and a difference $\Delta\theta$ (degrees) between the braiding angle of the braiding yarns at the butt side end of the first portion and the braiding angle of the braiding yarns at the tip side end of the first portion in a range of $-0.03x$ to $-0.05x$.

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9. (Withdrawn) The golf shaft according to claim 1, further comprising:

braiding yarns forming a braid layer having an inner diameter that includes a taper rate, wherein when the taper rate of the inner diameter of the braid layer is 0.004 to 0.006 and the length of the first portion in which the linear density is generally uniform is represented by "x", a braiding angle relative to the distance from the shaft tip in the first portion is varied in a linear manner, and a difference $\Delta\theta$ between the braiding angle of the braiding yarns at the butt side end of the first portion and the braiding angle of the braiding yarns at the tip side end of the first portion is in a range of $-0.01x$ to $-0.03x$.

10. (Currently Amended) A golf club comprising:

a golf shaft made of fiber reinforced plastic and having a tip portion including a tip, a butt portion including a butt, and a middle portion located between the tip portion and the butt portion;

a head attached to the tip portion of the shaft; and

a grip attached to the butt portion of the shaft, the shaft including;

a tapered shape having an outer diameter that increases gradually from the tip to the butt;

a first portion in which linear density is generally uniform; [[and]]

a second portion defined by the part of the shaft excluding the first portion, the first portion occupying 30% or more of the entire shaft length, and the linear density of the first portion being greater than that of the second portion;

a prepreg sheet; and

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a braid layer having a braiding yarn arranged on the prepreg sheet, wherein an orientation angle of a braiding yarn in the braid layer is increased at a position in where a minimal value of a linear density distribution of the prepreg sheet is located.

11. (Original) The golf club according to claim 10, wherein the first portion is located between the middle portion and the butt.

12. (Currently Amended) The golf ~~shaft~~ club according to claim 10, wherein the first portion extends entirely from the middle portion to the butt.

13. (Withdrawn) A golf club comprising:
a golf shaft made of fiber reinforced plastic and having a tip portion including a tip, a butt portion including a butt, and a middle portion located between the tip portion and the butt portion;
a head attached to the tip portion of the shaft; and
a grip attached to the butt portion of the shaft;
wherein a portion excluding about 30% of the entire shaft length from the tip portion of the golf shaft has a linear density that is generally uniform.

14. (Withdrawn) A golf club comprising:
a golf shaft made of fiber reinforced plastic and having a tip portion including a tip, a butt portion including a butt, and a middle portion located between the tip portion and the butt portion;

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a head attached to the thp portion of the shaft; and
a grip attached to the burr portion of the shaft;
wherein linear density is substantially uniform generally throughout the entire length of
the shaft.